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references and list of books, a feature which alone makes the volume of great importance to the teacher.

One feature in the present situation of biological teaching is apparently not dwelt upon and that is the importance of high grade teachers for such work. Doubtless this is taken for granted, but it is certainly too true that the subjects included under biology are often forced as side work upon uninterested teachers with the result that the poor outcome is too frequently attributed to the subject rather than to the conditions under which it is taught. As a whole the volume is an unusually sound body of suggestion and advice which no teacher of school biology can afford to be without.

R. & P.

ZOÖLOGY.

A New Textbook of Zoögeography.¹ — Professor Arnold Jacobi of the Forestry Academy at Tharandt, Saxony, has lately published a small manual. It is with much pleasure and satisfaction that we have read this little work, since it is the first general treatise of the subject which pays due attention to the modern improved ideas with regard to zoögeographical methods.

While all previous textbooks on this subject generally fall more or less in line with Wallace's method, giving chiefly an account of the present conditions of animal distribution upon the earth's surface, and being satisfied with the creation of a "scheme" of animal distribution, Jacobi makes it the fundamental idea of his book, that the creation of "schemes of distribution" is not the final goal of zoögeographical research, but only a means to facilitate it. He adopts the view that no scheme whatever is able to explain all cases, that it is possible to create different schemes for different groups of animals, and that even then there are exceptional cases, which need further research. That these exceptional cases very often find their explanation in the geological history of the particular group to which they belong, is also maintained by him, and he most emphatically declares this latter study the most important branch of this science. Thus he fully accepts the general principles of zoögeography as set forth repeatedly by Ortmann.

The limited space allotted for the work made it impossible for the

¹ Jacobi, A. *Tiergeographie* (Sammlung Goeschen). Leipzig, 1904. 12°. 152 pp., 2 maps.

author to give more than a mere sketch. But in this short sketch is condensed a wealth of information that is of highest value for the student. Only a few words shall be said here to direct attention to the chief features of the book.

The whole is divided in three main divisions: the *first part*, introduction, contains the discussion of general principles, part of which has been mentioned above. The two other parts are entitled: *General Zoögeography*, and *Special Zoögeography*. The *former* treats (in 9 chapters) of the general laws of animal distribution, the relation of the range of animals to space, the means of dispersal and barriers to it, the struggle for space, the difference between centre of origin, areas occupied later on, and areas of survival. Further, the principal physical conditions of life and conditions of dispersal are discussed, and finally certain typical cases of distribution are selected as examples for the laws laid down.

The *last part*, *Special Zoögeography* (17 chapters), contains first a short historical sketch of the work done previously in this line. Then follows a discussion of the schemes proposed for the division of the earth in zoögeographical units, a discussion of the scheme accepted in this work (for continental life), and a sketch of the actual distribution of selected groups of animals (Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, Freshwater Fishes, Insects, Land Snails, Earthworms). The last chapter treats of marine life and the laws of distribution governing it.

It is only to be regretted that the author did not have an opportunity to more fully discuss certain points, and chiefly, to go into detail with regard to the geological development of the present condition of animal distribution: but lack of space explains this. Another exception might be taken with reference to the scheme accepted for the distribution of land animals: but since this point is to a degree a matter of personal taste with the author, we shall not discuss it here.

A. E. O.

Watchers of the Trails.¹—Prof. C. D. G. Roberts' latest collection of animal stories, *The Watchers of the Trails*, does not fulfill the promise of his earlier *Kindred of the Wild*. It suggests rather the endeavor to work up the poorer ore from a once rich vein. We can not be expected to follow the fortunes of a dragon-fly larva with the same interest that held us in the story of the bull-moose, the "King

¹ Roberts, C. D. G. *The Watchers of the Trails*. Boston. L. C. Page & Co. 1904. 8vo, pp. 161. With many illustrations by Charles Livingstone Bull.